

DEA Seattle Field Division

Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska

Click below for investigations that are part of the Seattle Field Division's on-going strategy to combat marijuana trafficking

Eastern Washington

Western Washington

Oregon

Idaho

Alaska

Major Operations



Notices Sent to Marijuana Storefronts



U. S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
400 Second Avenue West
Seattle, Washington 98119

www.dea.gov

AUG 9 9 2012

Via Registered Mail

RE: Illegal Marijuana Enterprise at [redacted] Within School Zone or Other Prohibited Area

To Whom It May Concern:

The Drug Enforcement Administration has determined that there may be a marijuana enterprise operating under the name [redacted] at the real property located at [redacted] within 1,000 feet of an educational facility or other prohibited area. It is our understanding that you may own or have the property of the marijuana enterprise under your management or control, or that you own and/or operate the marijuana enterprise itself.

Please be advised that distributing, possessing with intent to distribute, or manufacturing controlled substances, or aiding and abetting such an offense violates federal law. Doing any of these activities in close proximity to an educational facility or playground, subjects the person involved to enhanced penalties pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 860.

This letter serves as notice to you that, under United States law, the sale and distribution of marijuana is illegal and subject to criminal prosecution and civil enforcement actions. Property involved in such operations, including real property, is subject to seizure by, and forfeiture to the United States. Specifically, Title 21, United States Code, Section 846(a) provides in relevant part:

(f) shall be unlawful to... knowingly and intentionally rent, lease, profit from, or make available for use, with or without compensation, the place for the purpose of unlawfully manufacturing, storing, distributing or using a controlled substance.

Section 881(a) of Title 21 provides in relevant part:

The following shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States and no property right shall exist in them: ... (j) real property, including any right, title, and interest (including any leasehold interest) in the whole of any lot or tract of land and any appurtenances or improvements, which is used, or intended to be used, in any manner or way, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, a violation of this sub-chapter...

Let's Talk About Marijuana

Statement of DEA Special Agent in Charge Matthew G. Barnes



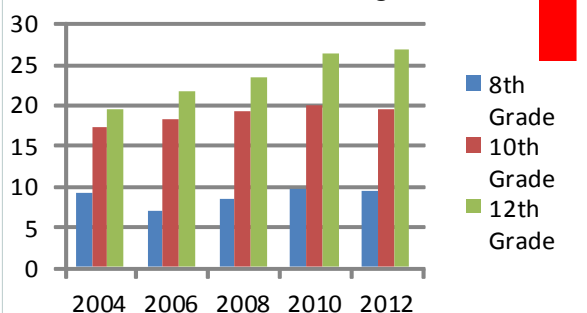
"While the Justice Department is reviewing the legalization initiative recently passed in Washington State, DEA's responsibility to enforce the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) remains unchanged. Neither States nor the Executive branch can nullify a statute passed by Congress. The investigation of drug traffickers remains our core priority and the President has never made a commitment to give carte blanche to drug traffickers. The DEA has consistently made it clear that targeting individuals with cancer or other serious illnesses is not the best use of our limited resources. That said, the DEA will continue to aggressively enforce the CSA throughout the Pacific Northwest."

- The proportion of high school students smoking marijuana everyday— **everyday**— has increased over the past five years from 5.1% to 6.5%.¹
- According to the Center for Disease Control, more teens are smoking marijuana than cigarettes— 23% of high school students reported recently smoking marijuana while 18% reported smoking cigarettes.²
- Marijuana use among teens rose in 2011 for the fourth straight year— a sharp contrast to the considerable decline that had occurred in the preceding decade. Marijuana use is now at a 30-year peak level among high school seniors.³

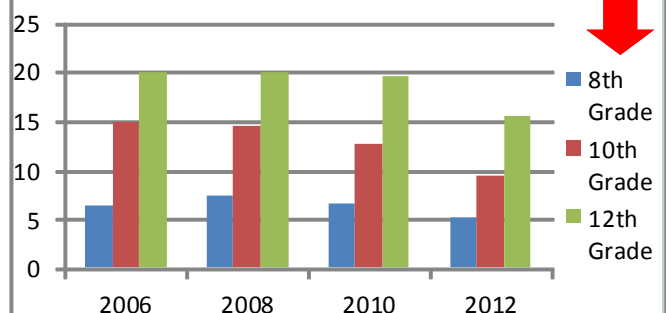
Graph 1

Graph 2

Percentage of Current Youth Marijuana Use Between 2004-2012 in Washington State



Percentage of Current Youth Cigarette Smoking Between 2006-2012 in Washington State

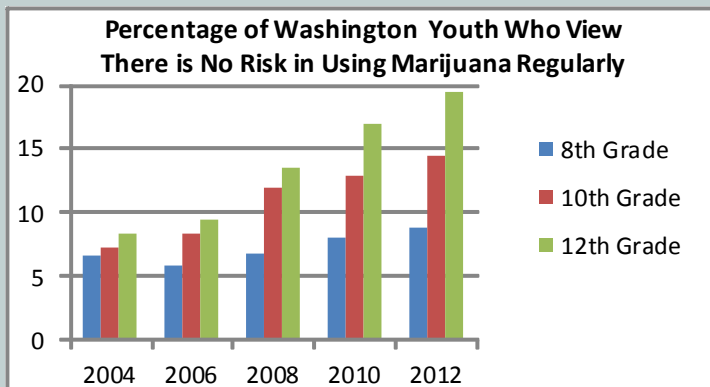


DEA Seattle Field Division

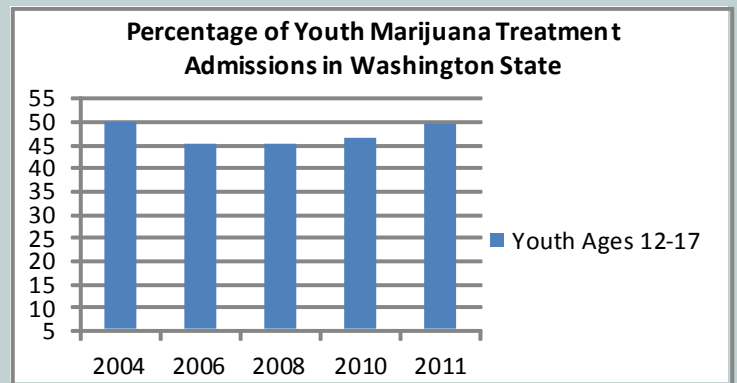
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- Perceptions of the harmfulness of marijuana among high school students are at their lowest levels since surveys of this age group began in 1991. ⁴
- As teens get older, their perception of risk diminishes. Only 20.6% of 12th graders see occasional use as harmful (the lowest since 1983), and 44.1% see regular use as harmful, the lowest since 1979. ⁵
- Of the 6.5 million persons aged 12 or older classified with illicit drug dependence or abuse in 2011, 4.2 million had marijuana dependence or abuse. ⁶

Graph 3



Graph 4



[Click here to view the sources](#)



Eastern District of Washington

U.S. Attorney Michael Ormsby

Statements by the Western Washington District and Eastern Washington District U.S. Attorneys



Western District of Washington

U.S. Attorney Jenny Durkan

“The Department of Justice is reviewing the legalization initiatives recently passed in Colorado and Washington State. The Department’s responsibility to enforce the Controlled Substances Act remains unchanged. Neither States nor the Executive branch can nullify a statute passed by Congress. In enacting the Controlled Substances Act, Congress determined that marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance. Regardless of any changes in state law, including the change that will go into effect on December 6th in Washington State, growing, selling or possessing any amount of marijuana remains illegal under federal law. Members of the public are also advised to remember that it remains against federal law to bring any amount of marijuana onto federal property, including all federal buildings, national parks and forests, military installations, and courthouses.”

Click the below photo to submit a tip

GOT A TIP?

Report Illegal Growers

Manufacturers

Distributors of Drugs



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Sources

¹Monitoring the Future Survey, 2012

²Center for Disease Control, 2012

³Monitoring the Future Survey, 2012

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶NSDUH, 2011

Graph ¹ Washington State Healthy Youth Surveys, 2004- 2012

Graph ² Ibid

Graph ³ Ibid

Graph ⁴ SAMHSA, 2004-2011